



Transportation Advisory Committee

Date: April 13, 2022

Time: 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM.

Location: Conducted via Remote Participation (Zoom).

Minutes.

1. Administration.

Members in Attendance: Dan Amstutz (DPCD), Lenard Diggins, Ray Jones, Melissa Laube, Howard Muise, Tycho Nightingale, Scott Smith, and Shoji Takahashi.

Members Absent: Corey Rateau (APD), Wayne Chouinard (DPW), Jeff Maxtutis, Laura Swan (Chair)

Members of Public in Attendance: Paul Schlichtman, Liz Reisberg, Petru Sofio and Joe Solomon.

In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair, Shoji Takahashi (Secretary) chaired the meeting. The Chair provided notice regarding Remotely Conducted Meetings, referring the members to the agenda attachment entitled "Governor Charles Baker's 3/12/2020 Executive Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law". The Chair reviewed the meeting ground rules and announced that the meeting was being recorded.

B. Approval of March 9, 2022 Meeting Notes.

The Minutes of the March 9, 2022 meeting were approved.

D. Advertisement for Associate Members.

TAC is recruiting for new Associate Members. An advertisement has been up on the Town's website under Committee Openings.

2. Public Comments (for information only, not for action).

Petru Sofio observed that flexible delineators placed at Mass Ave and Appleton St are regularly pushed in, away from the bump out. The Traffic Supervisor moves them back each day. A similar situation occurs on Chestnut St. The Town can consider using fixed flexible delineators.

3. Town Issues/Activities (not already on the agenda).

A. There was no update from Department of Public Works (DPW).

B. Dan Amstutz provided an update from the Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD).

Minuteman Bikeway Planning Project.

The Town's consultant is working on their final report, and they anticipate releasing it later in the spring.

MassTrails Grant project – Mystic River Path to Minuteman Bikeway.

There is an ongoing feasibility study, and during the public meeting on March 30, 2022, the Town's consultant shared the concept drawings of the route, intersections, and cross sections. A survey is ongoing until April 15, and another public meeting will be held in June. This Masstrails project will wrap up in time to close out the project by June 30.

BLUEBikes.

A public survey on BLUEBikes and bicycling in Arlington is out. There is also a Town Meeting warrant article to provide an appropriation for BLUEbikes operations.

Mass Ave and Appleton St and Chestnut St.

The Town has hired a consultant (Stantec) for the Mass / Appleton and Chestnut Street projects. Information on these projects is on the Town website. This project will also look at Mystic/Chestnut and Medford/Chestnut intersections. A schedule for the survey and design work will be added to the Town website.

In response to a question from Petru Sofio, Amstutz noted that construction on Mass Ave/Appleton Street could realistically begin in 2024 (with a final plan in

2023). The Town will look for funding through a MassWorks grant.

C. There was no update from the Police Department (APD).

4. Complete Streets Prioritization Plan.

The Town has requested assistance from MAPC (Metropolitan Area Planning Council) for updating the plan (was last approved about 5 years ago). Several projects have already been implemented by Public Works, such as the Lake Street Bikeway Intersection Project. The Town will seek technical assistance funding from MAPC/MassDOT to update the plan, including cost estimates for these projects. TAC is an important partner in helping prioritize which projects get funded first. The MassDOT Complete Streets program can provide up to \$400k in construction funding per municipality per four-year period. This also dovetails with the Connect Arlington Plan and how the Town approaches funding in a systematic way.

6. Park Avenue Corridor.

A. Update: Signal at Appleton St.

Amstutz provided an update on the signal at Appleton. TAC will be collecting new data for Park and Appleton (the last dataset for turning volumes is pre-pandemic). The Town needs a scope of work, and data collection is an important first step. There was a near-miss where a speeding car came very close to children crossing Appleton, and safety remains a concern.

B. Update: MBTA Bus Stops.

Amstutz noted that the MBTA has agreed to keep one of the Park Circle Bus stops (one legally blind person uses it), but it still plans to reduce the number of stops on the 62/76 and 78 bus routes. Despite public opposition, the MBTA wants to eliminate several other stops, including the several near Wachusett and Park Ave. The plan is to bring this to the Select Board in May.

Len Diggins had questions on what power the Select Board has, since the Board may have limited influence if the MBTA is only proposing stop removal. It is confusing on whether the MBTA is violating its own standards for stop spacing, but the formulas used for determining distances are unclear, and may not consider topography. Joe Solomon noted that residents commented to the MBTA on the steep slope along Park Avenue and the distance between stops, but it seems the MBTA does not consider it in their formula. Natasha Vance is

the main contact for the MBTA, and their consultant for bus stop relocations is McMahon Associates. Diggins noted the risk of a long and unproductive public discussion unless there is a clear course of action the Select Board can take.

8. Update: Summer St/ Newland Rd Crosswalk

Takahashi reported 10 emails from residents supporting the idea of a crosswalk across Summer Street. Safe Routes to School program coordinator Judy Crocker did an arrival/dismissal audit. She also noted many families crossing Summer Street near Sunset Road, and a few families parking and crossing at Newland Rd. She will be recommending signage along Summer St to alert drivers to the nearby school. Park Ave Extension has the official school zone, but Summer Street could have some kind of advisory signage.

9. Data Collection for ongoing TAC Projects

TAC has several projects that are waiting on data that could not be gathered during the Covid slowdown, and is funding several traffic data collection points. Speed and volume measurements on Overlook Road near Stratton and on Crosby Street are in response to resident complaints.

There will also be speed and volume data on Westminster Ave. Ray will look at Westminster/ Westmoreland stop sign compliance and request to DPW that the stop bars be repainted. A Lowell Street resident is happy with the crossing sign, but there is a question about whether the speed feedback sign displays vehicle speeds in real time or if there is a delay.

Petru Sofio asked about whether there is a speed limit sign on Lowell Street. There is a Townwide 25 mph limit sign near the Lexington border, but there is no plan to put another one further down on the same pole as the speed feedback sign.

The evaluations of a signal at Appleton and Park Ave need turning movement counts, which need to be manually done.

Jeff Maxtutis and Laura Swan visited Eastern Avenue, and it will also have speed and volume data collection on weekday and weekend due to the high weekend traffic volume.

10. Update: Bates Rd Left Turn and Everett St

DPW is not present, but Bill Copithorne will recommend no action for the Bates Road left turn. He will also write a memo that Everett St does not need pavement marking lanes, but DPW will be adding no-parking signage approaching the intersection to give drivers space and visibility (Parking is

already illegal within 20' of intersection, so it is not a change in traffic rules.)

Sofio asked whether the green bike lane pavement markings at Bates, Lake can be repainted this year. Need to check with DPW.

Paul Schlichtman noted a painted left turn lane by the High School leading to a driveway that has been removed.

7. Update: Dallin SRTS.

Amstutz shared reports the School Street Pilot Program at Dallin is going well, and shared a few pictures. The drop off only lane by the park is working well. There is some additional parking on the other streets, but not as much of an issue as some had feared. The traffic impact on Oakland Ave will be measured, but as of yet there are no known plans for Judy Crocker to come back to evaluate.

Len Diggins left the meeting at 7:50.

Sofio asked about improvements to the bus lane and Lafayette St and Mass Ave crosswalk, but there were no updates from the Town yet.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.